

NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, Committee on Agriculture, Committee on Armed Services, Committee on Financial Services, Committee on Energy and Commerce, Committee on Education and the Workforce, Committee on Government Reform, the Committee on International Relations, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Committee on Ways and Means, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Select Committee on Homeland Security:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit the 2003 National Drug Control Strategy, consistent with the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1705).

A critical component of our Strategy is to teach young people how to avoid illegal drugs because of the damage drugs can do to their health and future. Our children must learn early that they have a lifelong responsibility to reject illegal drug use and to stay sober. Our young people who avoid drugs will grow up best able to participate in the promise of America.

Yet far too many Americans already use illegal drugs, and most of those whose drug use has progressed—more than five million Americans—do not even realize they need help. While those who suffer from addiction must help themselves, family, friends, and people with drug experience must do their part to help to heal and to make whole men and women who have been broken by addiction.

We know the drug trade is a business. Drug traffickers are in that business to make money, and this Strategy outlines how we intend to deny them revenue. In short, we intend to make the drug trade unprofitable wherever we can.

Our Strategy is performance-based, and its success will be measured by its results. Those results are our moral obligation to our children. I ask for your continued support in this critical endeavor.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE.

WHITE HOUSE DRUG POLICY, THE DEFICIT, AND SUPPORTING THE NOMINATION OF MIGUEL ESTRADA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I certainly appreciate the opportunity to address the House tonight. I wanted to start off by commenting on some of the comments that were made by our colleagues on the Democrat side of the House; but before I do that, I wanted to comment about the message that we just received from the President of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, the President has listed as one of his priority items this year to have a compassionate, conservative model to end drug addiction. His idea is let us reach out to people who are unfortunately trapped by drug addiction and let us work it through local agencies and local volunteers and local charitable groups, get people off drugs and stop addiction so they can go on to have productive lives.

I think it is just an example of the compassionate conservative side of George Bush, attacking drug abuse on one side, but doing it with a human face and a gentle hand guiding people to get off drugs. I think it is a good program, and I look forward to working with it and seeing more of the proposal.

Mr. Speaker, I also wanted to comment, we heard many Democrats tonight talking about the deficits. I want the Democrats, the Blue Dog Democrats who are the more moderate Democrats in this body, I want them to know that I would like to work with them on reducing the deficit.

I was disappointed last year when the Democrats did not offer a budget. I think that kind of hurt them, hurt their own credibility of leadership, frankly, because I think that when you come to Congress, you have to vote yes, you have to vote no, but you have to participate and you have got to get involved in the process. I do not believe it is right just to be present. You have got to engage.

So I hope this year that the Blue Dog Caucus will offer a deficit-free budget. I know it is very difficult, because we are in a time of war; and I think in a time of war that deficits, unfortunately, are to be expected. That is why what we are trying to do with the Republican budget is make sure that it puts us on the glidepath back into getting out of the red and into the black.

So I am excited to work on a bipartisan basis with the Democrats on this, if they can come up with ideas. That is what we are here for. Put your ideas on the table, and let us do what is best for the American people. It does not matter which party gets credit for it.

Now, having said that, that I want to work with the Democrats on that, I also want to work with the Democrats on something else that is not really before the House per se, but it is before the American people, and that is the nomination of a young potential judge named Miguel Estrada.

Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that the Democrats are rejecting the nomination of the first Hispanic on the D.C.

court. I think it is unfortunate for the diversity of the court and for racial relations in general; but, more importantly, somehow that they seem to be attacking the American dream.

Here is a young guy that comes to America when he is 17 years old. He is an immigrant from Honduras.

By the time he is 41, he is nominated to be the first Hispanic to sit on the D.C. court. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Columbia College and magna cum laude from Harvard Law. By the age of 40 he had argued 15 cases before the Supreme Court and was rated "well-qualified" by the American Bar Association.

He has worked at the Department of Justice for both Republicans and Democrats, and he has been called an "extraordinary legal talent" and "genuinely compassionate" by the Clinton Solicitor General. But he is held up over in the Senate.

I am joined tonight by some colleagues from the great State of Florida, just south of the State of Georgia, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. HARRIS), the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FEENEY) who is here somewhere, who is the former speaker of the Florida House.

I would be honored to yield to whoever is ready, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Diaz-Balart) and then the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. HARRIS). I want to hear your comments on this important nomination.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the distinguished gentleman from Georgia for yielding.

Would it be all right if before I get into the specifics, I tell you a little bit about what it feels like to be a freshman, what I have learned? I have experienced some very interesting things while I have been here in Washington.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I am going to reclaim the time to say this to the gentleman from Florida. I am going to be honored to hear what it is like from both of you as a freshman, but I want to underscore for the folks back home that you are experienced legislators. The Secretary of State has been in the limelight many times before, and the gentleman's brother is the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART), who is also a Member of Congress, and who reminded us last night that the gentleman's family came to America as immigrants when he was the age of 4.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. I thank the gentleman. The gentleman is right, I have been in the State legislature for a number of years, and the private sector; and I have to admit I have been kind of caught off guard by some things in the few weeks I have been up here in D.C.

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Some things that kind of hit me kind of in a strange way, I have to admit, maybe it is just because of the Washington phenomenon, is how I hear